

A Message from the Mayor



Grand Junction City Hall

We are privileged to live in a community that enjoys a quality of life unsurpassed anywhere. Grand Junction City Council and City staff desire to enhance that quality of life going forward, but we all know that you cannot eat quality of life. We must engage in partnerships to bring high-paying jobs that provide a promising future in this community for our children. Through a collaborative effort with all our economic partners including Mesa County, Colorado Mesa University and School District 51, along with the community's non-profit and for-profit organizations, we can make this desire a reality.

It is my hope that the citizens of Grand Junction will refuse to be caught up in a spirit of partisanship that creates divisiveness, but rather unite in a common vision that Grand Junction can continue to be a wholesome place to live and raise our children.

2013 was a year of challenges for the Grand Junction City Council. We were confronted with the unexpected death of one of our prominent members and the resignation of another. The five remaining Councilmembers persevered and were able to appoint two outstanding members to the vacant seats. As a result, we can face 2014 with a full Council and new vision to continue to move this city forward in a positive direction.

We realized several long-standing and significant goals in 2013:

- We started the renovation of the Avalon Theatre
- We finished the renovation of the Fire Administration Building and Fire Station #2

- We brought to completion and dedicated the Public Safety Facilities Project
- We watched the Grand Junction Rockies complete their second successful season in their new home at Suplezio Field
- We took important steps toward beginning the development of Las Colonias Park
- And we approved moving forward with the master planning process of Matchett Park

Although the sluggish economy will continue to be a challenge to contend with in 2014, we as a Council and City staff are confident that we will meet the challenge head on and continue to make great strides toward achieving our mission of making Grand Junction the most livable city west of the Rockies.

Grand Junction today is a great place to live, but it will take a concerted effort of all community members working along with us to make it an even better place for our children and grandchildren.

The City Council and staff wish everyone a profitable and successful year in 2014!

Sam Susuras, Mayor
City of Grand Junction

Highlights of 2013...

Throughout 2013 we have continued to see glimmers of recovery in the local economy, but those glimmers have been inconsistent and at times more dim than we would have hoped given signs we saw during 2012. We continue to be watchful and optimistic with the end of 2013 beginning to show more positive signs of growth. Despite it all, we had a full year in 2013. It was a year that brought change, some sadness, and accomplishment. Here is a look back at many of those things:

Much-needed renovations were made to Lincoln Park including improvements to the playground area, the removal of the circle drive, new restroom facilities, more parking and improved tennis and pickleball courts. The outcome resulted in numerous awards. ~ Deputy Police Chief Troy Smith left Grand Junction as he accepted the charge of leading the Commerce City Police Department on the Front Range. Police Commander Mike Nordine was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief. ~ City Council continued their commitment to energy conservation with the purchase of new CNG public works equipment and the installation of solar arrays at the wastewater and water treatment plants. ~ We temporarily moved the crews of Fire Station #2 out of their station and across Patterson Road to a house on the Matchett Park property while their building was being renovated to add more space for an additional response crew to assist with call volume. ~ We said goodbye to a community hero and friend as we mourned the unexpected passing of Police Commander Greg Assenmacher, leaving an empty spot in the hearts of many. ~ City Council approved moving forward with the renovation of the Historic Avalon Theatre. When complete, the elements of the approved \$7.6 million project will include new and

additional seats, improvements to life safety features, new HVAC systems, improved acoustics, ADA accessibility, improved concessions and 10,000 square feet of additional program space that will eventually, as funds are raised, add a multi-purpose room and a roof top terrace. ~ The City's org chart took on a different look as changes were made to the structure of the organization. The promotion of Tim Moore to Deputy City Manager along with the restructuring of the Public Works, Utilities and Planning Department under the direction of Greg Trainor were just two of the moves that were made. A new division focusing on assisting the business community - Economic Development and Sustainability - was formed under the Deputy City Manager's leadership. ~ During a routine traffic signal upgrade, an unmarked gas line was hit resulting in a gas explosion and fire that injured three and brought the core of Grand Junction to a halt. Many agencies came together to aid the displaced, maintain safety and restore service in the area. ~ Following the April election, we said goodbye to City Councilmembers Tom Kenyon, Laura Luke, Bill Pitts, and Teresa Coons, and welcomed new Councilmembers Phyllis Norris, Marty Chazen, Harry Butler and Rick Brainard. ~ We sent several members of the Grand Junction Fire Department to assist with wildland firefighting as a result of the record wildfire season in Colorado and across the nation. ~ We administered the oath of office to our new Mayor, Sam Susuras and our new Mayor Pro Tem, Marty Chazen. ~ The community was shocked and saddened by the untimely death of City Councilmember Harry Butler, just a few short weeks after he was sworn into office. Grand Junction lost a great and caring human being with the passing of Harry. ~ The Las Colonias Master Plan was adopted by City Council, setting the course for future development of the Las Colonias Park area along the river. ~ A realigned intersection at

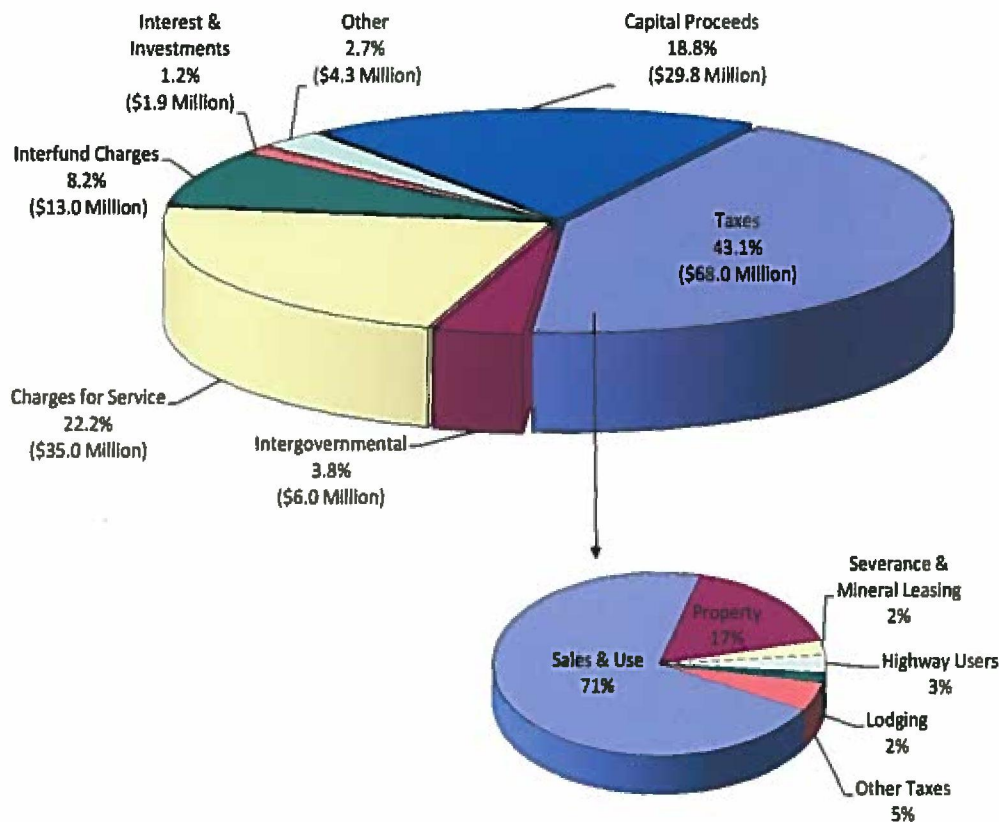
22 Road and Highway 6 got underway in concert with CDOT's new "diverging diamond" overpass at exit 26. When complete, the area will improve traffic flow and will accommodate two new truck stops. ~ Duncan McArthur was selected by City Council to fill the seat left vacant by Harry Butler's passing. ~ Visions for the future of Orchard Mesa began to unfold as development of the Orchard Mesa Master Plan continued. ~ Following pressure from the community, City Councilmember Rick Brainard submitted his resignation. ~ The long-standing burned out structure of White Hall was demolished in anticipation of a new structure taking its place in the future. ~ The efforts of many people paid off as a new Labor Day event came to town in the form of the Grand Junction Off-Road mountain bike race. The event drew a significant crowd and proved successful enough that plans are underway to bring it back in 2014. ~ Barbara Traylor Smith was selected by City Council to fill the At Large seat vacancy. ~ In much the same fashion of many communities across Colorado, City Council approved a ban on the commercial sale of recreational marijuana. ~ And finally, we brought the Public Safety Facilities Project to a close with the completion of the renovated Fire Administration Building at 6th and Ute and Fire Station #2 at Patterson and 28 1/4 Road. The Fire Administration staff moved out of the Municipal Services Campus, where they had been for more than 23 months, and into their new home, as did the crews of Station #2.

It is evident from all that is mentioned above that 2013 was an eventful and memorable year in Grand Junction! We look forward with hope to a 2014 that brings much prosperity to our community.

City of Grand Junction Budget

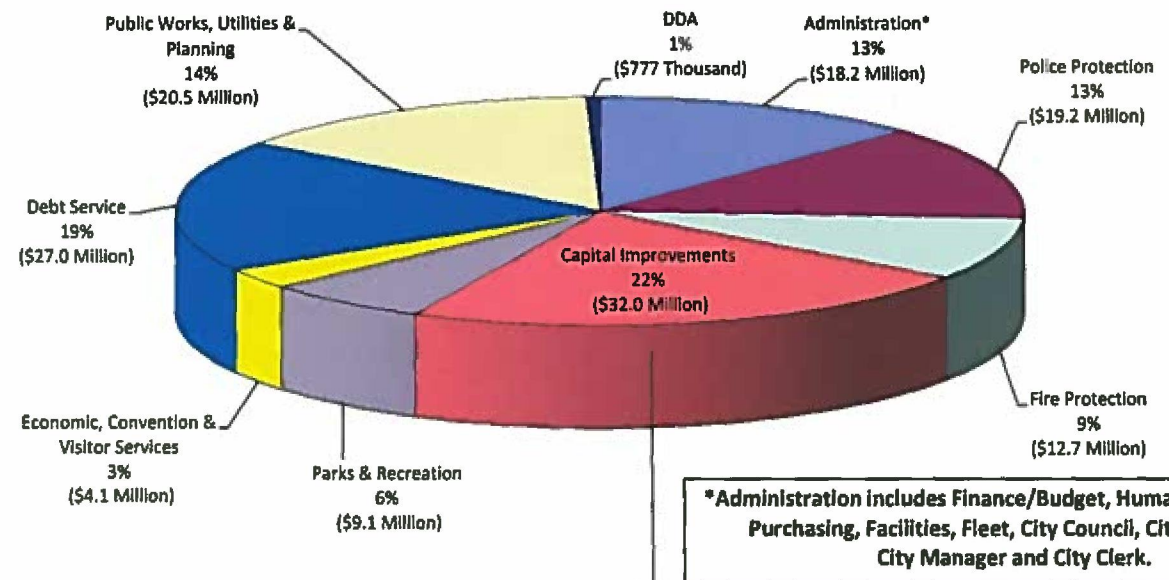
The following pie charts show an average of the last five years from 2009-2013. At print time, the 2014 budget, in particular capital, was still being developed. For a look at how tax dollars may be spent in 2014 please look at the "Monthly Cost of Service" graph on the next page.

Where the Money Comes From...

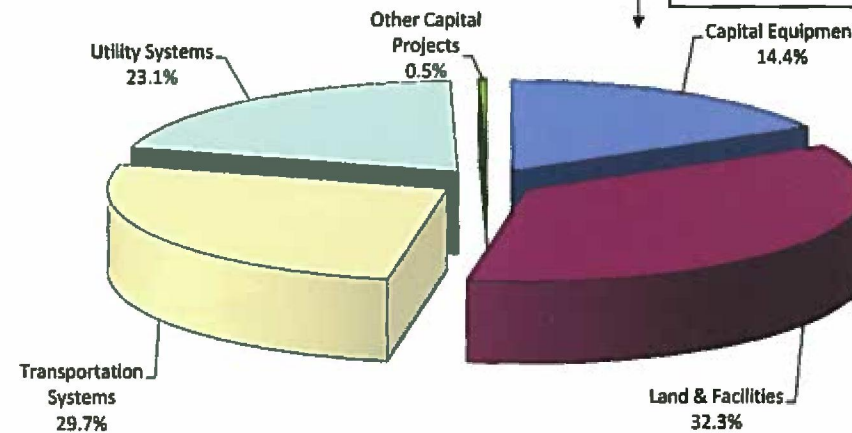


The main source of revenue the City uses for general government is generated from taxes. Seventy-one percent is in the form of sales and use tax with only 18% of that amount being paid by Grand Junction residents.

Where the Money Goes...

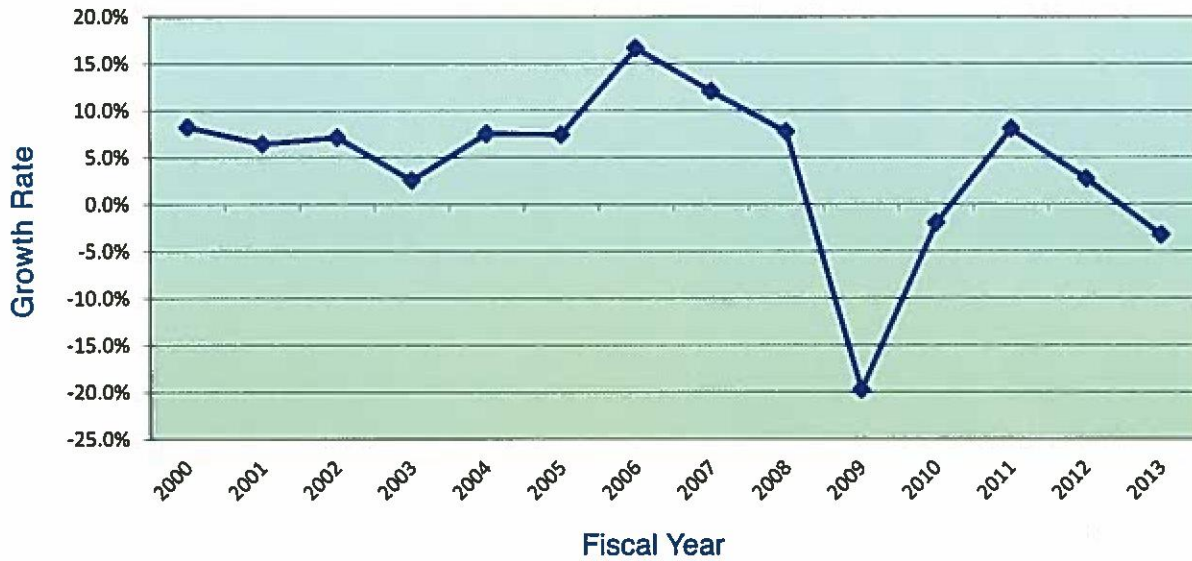


*Administration includes Finance/Budget, Human Resources, IT, Purchasing, Facilities, Fleet, City Council, City Attorney, City Manager and City Clerk.

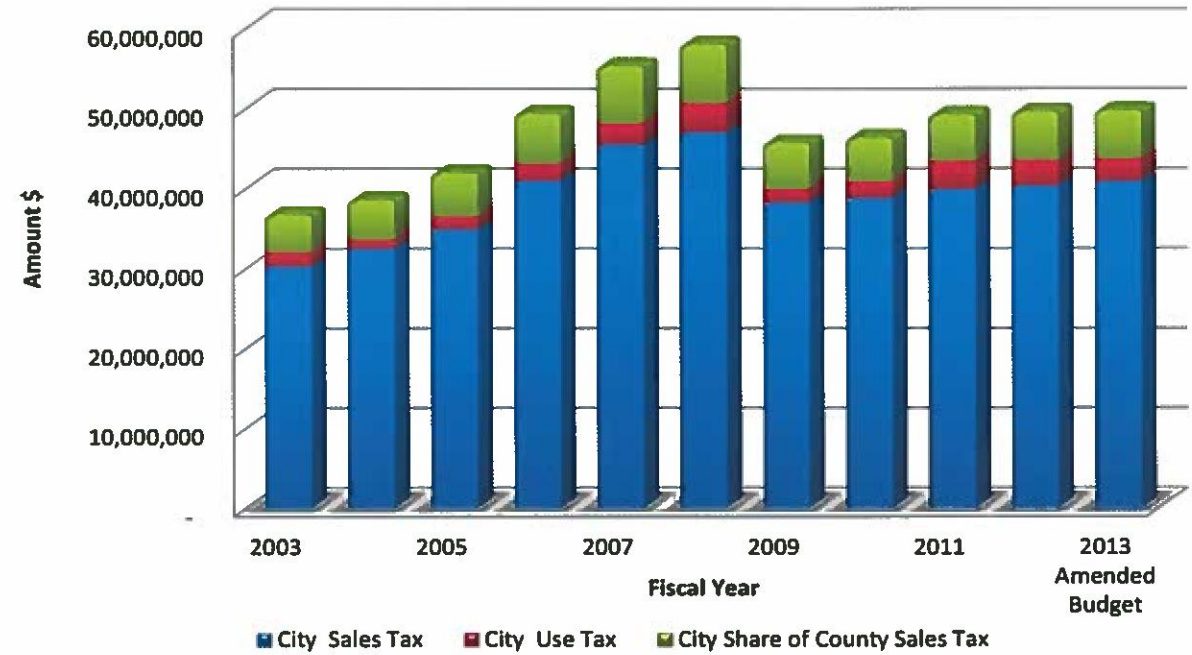


Capital improvements to streets, parks, utility systems and other infrastructure is a major category of expenditure, accounting for 22% of total general expenditures, averaged over five years.

Historical Sales Tax Collections Growth Rate



Sales & Use Tax Collections (\$)

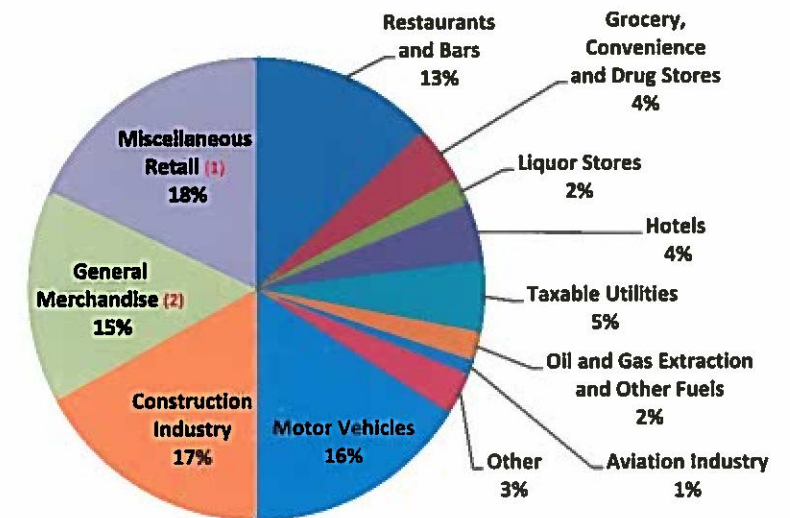


Monthly Cost of Service Per City Household 2013 Estimated Operating Budget by Service Area



The average City Household will pay \$522 in annual taxes received by the City, or \$43.50 per month, in support of all general government services provided by the City of Grand Junction. Economic, Convention and Visitor Services is not included here because they are funded primarily by lodging tax and service fees.

2013 Sales Tax Revenue by Industry



NOTE: Gasoline, groceries, and prescription medicine are exempt from sales tax.

Five-year trends for revenues by industry are consistent with 2013 revenues.

(1) Miscellaneous Retail- furniture, electronics & appliances, sporting goods, clothing & accessories and other specialty retail stores.

(2) General Merchandise- department stores, warehouse clubs and superstores.